THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information relating to number of applications received, number of applications recommended by DIC Task Forces to banks and number of applications with amount sanctioned by banks in Rajasthan durnig the last 3 years is set out in the table below. The present data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India does not yield district-wise information.

Year	No. of applications received	No. of applications recommended by DICs to banks	Loans sanctioned	
			No.	Amount (*Rs. in crores*)
1984-85	1,04,502	22,178	15,382	23·00
1985-86	72,389	14,874	10,986	21·62
1986-87	35,819	13,296	10 736	23·99

Seizure of firearms

2487. SHRI S. S AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians abroad were permitted by the Customs & Excise Department to bring Revolvers, etc. with them on their return home a few years ago; if so, the quantum of fire-arms such visitors were permitted to bring with them;

(b) whether this facility has since been withdrawn;

(c) whether it is a fact that after the date of withdrawal of this facility a number of fire-arms were seized by the Customs authorities from such visitors who were unaware of the withdrawal of the said facility; and

(d) if so, what are the details of seizures, itemwise, the amount paid on compensation against such seizure and mode of their disposal by the Customs authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) One pistol or revolver of 0 32 bore or smaller and one gun or rifle were allowed to be cleared on payment of duty by Indian passengers under Baggage Rules, 1978 upto 12-11-1986, provided the importer possessed an Arms Licence under the Arms Act, 1959 This facility has been withdrawn by ITC Public Notice No. 131/85-88 dated 13-11-1986 issued by the office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports

(c) and (d) Clearance of fire arms imported in baggage by passengers upto 22-11-1986 had been regularised by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. Fire arms imported in baggage after 22-11-86 have been confiscated absolutely. Since the fire arms imported in contravention of the prohibition are liable to confiscation and on confiscation the property vests in the Government; the question of compensating importers who had imported fire arms without being aware of the prohibition, does not arise The confiscated fire arms are used for Government work.

Decline in the production of rubber

2488 SHRI M A BABY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been conducted by the Rubber Board after 1960 to find out whether there would be any decline in the yield of rubber due to abnormal leaf falling disease;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the popular and widely used Clone RR II 105 was not included in the above studies; and

(d) whether any paper was a subject for discussion and accepted by the seminar at Coonoor, conducted by the Board in 1986 that the Bordeaux mixture could be reduced from 5000 liters to 3000 litres per hectare as a preventive to the leaf falling disease of rubber occurring in the month of June-July?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a study conducted by the Rubber Research Institute of India in 1984-86 indicated that the crop loss in the first year itself varied from 9.2 per cent to 15.2 per cent and the loss in terms of dry rubber was 160—215 Kgs./Hec./year. The experiments were abandoned in view of extensive damages to the trees by drying of branches.

(c) As Clone RR II 105 was released for replanting in late 1970s and the planting picked up momentum only from 1980, this was not subjected to any experiments in 1984.

(d) The paper presented in the Coonoor symposium 1986 suggested a reduced dosage of Bordeaux mixture for fighting leaf falling disease. Experimentation with the reduced dose was done in seedling area only which might not have been effective in all types of plantations. Therefore, general recommendation on dosages of Bordeaux mixture was not changed. Investigations are on to assess if lesser dosages of the mixture can suitably fight the disease. In case the results are encouraging the recommendation will be modified accordingly.

Revision of wages of industrial workers

2489. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) when were the wages of the industrial workers last revised;

(b) whether, in view of the steep increase in the prices of essential commodities, Government propose to revise the minimum wages for industrial workers; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The wages etc., of the workers are governed by notifications under the Minimum Wages Act, settlements and awards, etc. The Central and State Governments fix and revise the minimum wages from time to time under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act in respect of employments in their respective spheres. The rates of minimum wages for the employees in 37 scheduled employments were last revised by the Central Government in October, 1986. These wage rates are revised keeping in view the recommendations of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980 that minimum wages should be reviewed and revised, if necessary once at least in two years or on a rise of 50 points in the consumer price index number, whichever is earlier. The proposal for further revision of these rates is yet to be finalised.

Setting up of a Galvalume Plant near Keoladeo National Park

2490. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposal of the General Engineering Works (GEW) to set up a galvalume plant near the famous Keoladeo National Park;

(b) whether the project is likely to add to the environmental pollution thereby endangering the birds and fishes in the prak; and

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to evaluate the advisability of the GEW plant from the environmental angle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Environmental pollution will endanger the birds in the park.

(c) Yes, Sir.